

CA Water Quality Monitoring Council
Data Management Workgroup
Meeting Notes, May 6, 2016

Subcommittee Products

Web Services

The group discussed the draft web services briefing paper. The subcommittee had a question as to the audience for the paper. The initial intended audience was the other workgroups to provide guidance for the development for the other My Water Quality portals, but has since expanded to include DWMG "steering group." As such, it should provide a clearer statement of the value of providing web services (currency of data, ease of access, metadata, etc.). The committee suggested moving the "benefits" section to the front of the paper, much like an Executive Summary. The committee also suggested more use of web links to fill out the technical detail of the paper without adding to its length. Kris Jones will share the layout for the workgroup fact sheets developed by him and Jon Marshack to help organize the paper and possibly provide model for Executive Summary. The group also discussed and recommended creating a common definitions document to compile all of the definitions from the three workgroup white papers and ensure the use of common definitions. The group will review the document and discuss at the next meeting.

Data Management Plans

The Data Management Plan subcommittee developed a presentation attempts to fill the gap in the vision paper. Data Management Plans (DMPs) are common in academia and are often required for NSF/NIH grants. If devised early, they can help bridge the gap between data collection and distribution and help make distribution less of an afterthought. They also provide the foundation for metadata. They should be created when the project is initiated. DMPs should be simple. They can be fit into the State procurement process. The Delta Science Program now requires DMPs as part of their grant funding submissions. Web Services, DMPs and Data Federation reflect different levels of "data sharing." The Data Management Workgroup could provide templates for individual agency DMPs.

Data Federation

Data federation provides a means to enable individual data sets to remain discreet but still be able to interoperate. The group discussed various elements to incorporate into a data federation white paper. One aspect would be to discuss how data federation and web services are interrelated and how they both work to the common goal of making data accessible. The

governance issue for data federation is a rather “unsexy” but important topic and providing concrete examples of how different federated systems handle this task would make it easier to understand. One such example is the Sacramento River Watershed Portal, which pulls in data from different sources and cleans them up to serve them back out. Examples of regional or national governance include WQX (which offers a unique URL to each dataset in its system), OpenData / Open Water Data. Possibly look to interagency emergency response agreements and structures for examples of federated data governance. “Governance” is a term which should be added to the definitions glossary.

Announcements

The CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife IAP group is developing best practices and methodologies for using and analysis contemporary and historical data together.

The Sacramento River Watershed Portal is being developed by the Sacramento River Watershed Program with support from 34North.

The State Water Board Data Fair / Code-a-thon drew a large attendance and showed the diversity of people interested in Open Data and data sharing.

Steering Committee Letter

The group discussed the draft letter to recruit members for the DMWG steering group. The needed needed more emphasis on how the steering group and DMWG in general will help support the work that the recipients are doing. Also need to show how the group’s work fits within the broader context of “Data Sharing.” The letter should also identify which agencies will be represented on the steering group. Tony Hale and Kris Jones will work on a revision of the letter and work with Jon Marshack to identify potential steering group members.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2016 at 1:00 in CR 240 of the CalEPA building.

Potential topics include:

- Geotracker GAMA presentation (Dori Bellan)?

- Wrap up white papers

- Steering group update and charter revision (to include steering group)